CONSERVATION

Research and Advice: Research Laboratory of the National Archives of India continued its programme of testing suitability of different preservative chemicals and materials for preservation of records and allied materials, and development of better methods for scientific treatment of documents. The scheme of dissemination of knowledge on scientific conservation of documents etc. remained unchanged.

A few samples of paper received from indigenous manufacturers tested for their suitability for use in permanent records. A sample of the paper from M/s. Ballarpur Paper and Straw Board Mills viz. Sunlit Twist Wrap paper has shown promising durability and properties in our preliminary tests. However, for ascertaining the uniformity of the quality in production (as this variety of paper is not commonly marketed in India) it is now proposed to subject more samples of this variety from different product in batches for further investigation. Some tangible conclusions might be arrived at within the course of a few months.

Technical advice on repair and rehabilitation of records was tendered to individuals and Government institutions.

Repair and Rehabilitation of Records: In all 55,677 sheets of records and 8 maps were laminated by machine as well as with solvent lamination process. 10,334 sheets and 140 strips were flattened, 58,665 sheets repaired with tissue paper, and 413 with chiffon, 1,07,939 sheets guarded, 652 volumes, 1,293 books, 117 O.Cs., 1,697 miscellaneous items and one map bound.

Air-Cleaning and Fumigation: 669 bundles, 2,903 volumes, 2,759 books, 172 boxes, 50 maps, 40 sheets were aircleaned and fumigated.